

SYNONYMICAL AND OTHER NOTES ON DIPTERA.

BY W. R. THOMPSON.

Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

I.

In Vol. II, No. 4 of the "Annals of the Entomological Society of America," a number of species and genera of North American Tachinids are described as new by Mr. C. H. T. Townsend. While working in the National Museum some time ago, I had occasion to make a careful study of the types of some of these forms, with the results given herewith.

Paragermaria autumnalis Towns.

This species has been described by Mr. D. W. Coquillett in Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash., VI., p. 186, 1904, as *Distichona auriceps*. The species is a well-marked one and there can be no question as regards the specific synonymy. The question of the synonymy of the three genera *Distichona* v. d. Wulp, *Pseudogermaria* B. & B., and Mr. Townsend's new genus *Paragermaria*, is a more difficult one and I do not care to express an opinion upon it at the present time. It must be noted, however, that in the specimens of this species which I have examined, there are a couple of hairs below the lowest frontal bristles and a row of similar fine hairs extends up the parafacials to a short distance below the upper ones just mentioned so that the parafacials cannot be termed bare. On this account *Distichona auriceps* Coqt., will not run to the genus *Distichona* in either the key to the genera in Mr. Coquillett's "Revision," nor in Mr. Adams' in Williston's "Manual," but will run out to *Winthemia*, from which it is easily distinguished by the reclinate ocellar bristles, the ciliate facial ridges, the broad cheeks, etc.

Sisyropa hemerocampae Towns.

Mr. Townsend gives as a synonym of this species, *Exorista griseomicans* Coq. (*non* v. d. Wulp), but has apparently over-

looked the fact that what is apparently the same form has been described already by Mr. Coquillett in the "Revision of the Tachinidæ," pp. 97-98, as *Exorista amplexa*. An examination of the series of specimens referred by Mr. Coquillett in the "Revision," to *griseomicans* v. d. Wulp, of those described by him as *amplexa*, and of the specimens included by Mr. Townsend under *hemerocampæ*, has disclosed the fact that the number of post-sutural macrochætæ is variable within the species, many specimens having three post-suturals on one side and four on the other. No other differences between the three forms are perceptible and consequently they must be referred to one and the same species. It is doubtful if the species is the one described by van der Wulp in the *Biologia* as *griseomicans*. His description omits several of the important characters but the legs are described as "black" whereas in all of the specimens of this form which I have examined, the tibiæ and often the femora as well, are reddish-yellow. Until it can be positively determined by an examination of van der Wulp's type that the species are not distinct the synonymy must stand as follows:

***Exorista amplexa* Coqt.**

1897. *E. amplexa* Coqt., in Revision of the Tachinidæ, pp. 97-98.

E. griseomicans Coqt. (*non* van der Wulp), loc. cit., p. 98.

1909. *Sisyropa hemerocampæ* Towns., in Ann. Am. Ent. Soc., Vol. II, no. 4, p. 248.

Mr. Townsend gives no reasons for referring the species to the genus *Sisyropa* and until such reasons are forthcoming it must remain in the genus *Exorista*.

***Eumasicera coccidella* Towns.**

The type of this species, which is a single female from Massachusetts, agrees perfectly with types and co-types of *Sturmia sternalis* Coqt., described from Missouri, and the forms seem to be without doubt identical. The genus *Eumasicera* certainly cannot stand since the species runs to the genus *Sturmia* in Mr. Townsend's own key to the genus *Argyrophylax* and its allies, in the "Taxonomy of the Muscoidean Flies," p. 98.

***Rileyella* Towns.**

This genus is proposed by Mr. Townsend to include a single species,—*Frontina aletia* Riley, and as I understand it, to separate this form from *Frontina frenchii* Will., and *F. archippivora* Will., both of which have marginal macrochætæ on the first two abdominal segments in both sexes. After a careful comparison of the characters afforded by the puparia, which it may be remarked, are frequently of great assistance in the study of the Tachinidæ, and of the adult characters, including those afforded by the genitalia of the males, I have come to the conclusion that there is no good reason for the generic separation of *aletia* and *frenchii*. In the "Taxonomy of the Muscoidean Flies," p. 88, Mr. Townsend himself included *aletia* in the same genus with *hesperus* B. and B. which Mr. Coquillett in his "Revision" gives as a synonym of *frenchii*.

***Cordyligaster septentrionalis* Towns.**

This form, described by Mr. Townsend from specimens from Plummer's Island, Md., is evidently *C. minuscula* v. d. Wulp, which was described from various localities in Mexico. A long series of specimens of this species is in the U. S. N. M. collections, and a careful study of the series and comparison with the types and co-types of Mr. Townsend's species, failed to disclose any specific differences. The description given by Mr. Townsend differs very little from that given by van der Wulp in the *Biologia Centrali Americana*, and there can be no doubt as to the specific identity of the two forms.

In the "Taxonomy of the Muscoidean Flies," p. 80, Mr. Townsend has described a new genus and species, *Oedemasoma nuda*, from a male specimen collected in Nevada, and remarks upon its close resemblance to *Wahlbergia brevipennis* Loew, to which Mr. Coquillett had referred this specimen with a query. The only differences which Mr. Townsend was able to find were slight differences in the position of the hind cross-vein, in the length of the petiole of the apical cell, and in the distribution of the pollen on the head and thorax. Through the kindness of Mr. Samuel Henshaw, I have been able to examine Loew's type in the Museum of Comparative Zoology in Cambridge. To all appearances Loew's type is somewhat greased, which undoubtedly accounts for the absence of the slight silvery pruinosity on the parafrontals

and anterior part of the mesonotum which Mr. Townsend describes as present in *Oedemasoma nuda*. Loew's specimen is a female whereas Mr. Townsend's is a male. In view of these facts it seems scarcely reasonable to separate them specifically. At Mr. Coquillett's request I drew up a description of the type of *Wahlbergia brevipennis* Loew, and forwarded it to him for comparison with the type of *Oedemasoma nuda* Towns., and he has come to the conclusion that the differences in the sex of the two specimens and the greased condition of Loew's type were sufficient to account for the differences which exist between them. Mr. Coquillett considers that the generic reference to *Wahlbergia* was correct, so that the generic synonymy will stand as follows:

Besseria Desvoidy, 1830.

Wahlbergia Zetterstedt, 1842.

Aprostrophas Loew, 1870.

Oedemasoma Townsend, 1908.

In the other questions of synonymy discussed above Mr. Coquillett substantially agrees with me, and I wish to express my gratitude to him for his kind and courteous assistance in this and many other matters.

II.

In the keys to the genera of the Sarcophagidæ and Muscidæ in Williston's "Manual" there exists a slight but misleading error to which it may be well to call attention. If I do not mistake, these keys are adapted from those drawn up by Brauer and v. Bergenstamm in "Die Zweiflügler des k. k. Museums zu Wien." As Mr. Townsend has already pointed out in his "Taxonomy," the "genæ" or "Wangen" of Brauer and v. Bergenstamm do not correspond to the "cheeks," as the latter term is commonly understood, and as it is used in the keys to the Tachinidæ and Dexiidæ in the "Manual," but correspond to the "sides of the face" or "parafacials." The differences between the genera *Calliphora* and *Lucilia*, and between *Phormia* and *Protocalliphora*, are not in the presence or absence of hairs on the cheeks but on the sides of the face. Therefore, on page 343 of Williston's "Manual," the words "sides of the face," or "parafacials" should be substituted for "cheeks," in lines 2, 5, 8 and 11, and the same correction should be made on page 351, lines 4, and 5.

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